

ENGLISH

JACQUELINE HUANG RECEIVED A PERFECT VCE ENGLISH SCORE IN 2013.

My name is...

Jacqueline Yuyen Huang

I went to...

Westbourne Grammar School

In VCE English I received a score of 50

The thing I liked best about doing this subject was...

with English being my second language I disliked the subject. However in retrospect, I really enjoyed writing essays for Context. I had a lot of fun creating a personal voice and being able to be more creative/unconventional with my writing.

This year (2014) I am doing...

Bachelor of Biomedicine

The best advice I can give VCE students about this exam is...

don't over complicate and over think. For Language Analysis: at the start of the year, I really struggled with this section of English. I was never able to finish a timed essay and felt as though my essay was poorly constructed. For me, it became a very formulaic piece of writing when I stopped thinking too much, and just identified the most relevant techniques that I knew I've had plenty of practice analysing. Don't think too much and just paragraph according to the points the author makes. Always remember to really dig and analyse. Don't write fluffy sentences. I find it to be the easiest format that ensures you are analysing straight forwardly without having to worry about essay structure etc. Also, it really helps to have a few adjectives and verbs that describe the author's tone and what he or she is doing up your sleeves. Spend some time writing good sentence patterns for an analysis because you start to see that you can re-use a lot of things you've written in the past. Paragraphs for language analysis are essentially: "point, evidence, analyse".

Don't try to over-do your language. When I did VCE I was always amazed by the fancy words and impressive sentence structures that were evident in the sample essays. Keep in mind those aren't the only good essays. Keep your language simple and straight forward.

Practice is key: the more you do now the easier it is for you to prepare later.

Throughout the year I put in a lot of effort into each and every one of my homework essays. On top of that, I would often write individual paragraphs for some random idea – a theme, a character etc that I hadn't covered or had time to write a full essay on. The more quality essays I wrote that covered a broad range of topics, the easier it became when it came to assessments. I was able to recycle a few of my many paragraphs I had already written and form them into a cohesive essay. It made things a lot easier.

The best advice I got from my teacher about this exam was...

there wasn't specific advice that was directed particularly at the exam (apart from her suggestion of starting the Language Analysis first and to be more creative with our Context pieces in order to stand out). However I am really grateful for a very supportive and hardworking teacher. Our school's English department is also very well resourced with some excellent English teachers that really taught us the best approaches to essay writing. I also appreciate how my school gave us only an hour to do our assessed essays at school under exam conditions. I think that really prepared me in terms of time management.

In the month before this VCE exam, I...

collected every essay I had written and improved upon them (fixing up my expressions and adding in extra information or ideas). I also wrote separate paragraphs for all three sections of the exam. I went through my texts to familiarise myself with it more.



I didn't have a study schedule at all. I would sit down to write when I had an idea and leave it when I couldn't write anything decent.

I recorded myself reading out the paragraphs/ essays and listened to them. I also revised all my essays.

On exam day, I prepared myself by...

I felt like I couldn't recall anything that I had memorised. However I quickly reminded myself not to think about anything else: didn't even try to recite any memorised essays, I just read everything over and over again just before entering the exam room. It helped keep me calm on my way to the exam.

After the exam, I...

went home and took a couple of hours' break. I felt like I did really well since I was lucky enough to have been able to write all of my best paragraphs for the exam. This feeling made me more motivated to study for my other exams which were only days after the English one.

The best exam advice I received from my parents, siblings or friends was...

I didn't receive anything exam related, but I thank my parents for believing in me and they never gave me any pressure. I also thank my friends who reminded me not to doubt my capabilities.

I didn't work a part-time job during year 12 because...

my parents felt as though it would interfere with my studies.